

MUNITIMES

Photo: Carmen Magana



Muni's New General Manager

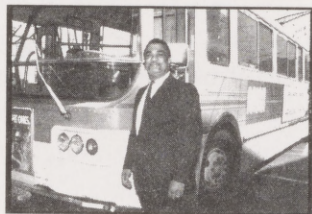
Johnny Stein, who served as Acting General Manager of the Municipal Railway since the departure of William Stead last March, was approved as the permanent general manager by the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission on Tuesday, October 23rd.

Stein, a Muni employee for 29 years, was chosen following a nationwide search for a new general manager. He brings a wealth of experience and what has been described as "down-home" wisdom to the position, honed on a variety of posts he has held. He joined Muni in 1961 as a driver and has climbed the ladder steadily since then. He has held the positions of transit inspector, transit instructor, safety manager, assistant division manager and assistant chief inspector. In 1982, he was appointed Staff Assistant to the Deputy General Manager of Transportation and from there he moved on to become Manager of Street Operations for transit covering the northern part of the City. In 1985, he became the General Superintendent of Surface Transportation, managing the day-to-day transit service delivery of five operating divisions, and

continued on back panel

Dear Rider,

Photo: Carmen Magana



As Muni's new General Manager, I thank you for your patronage and support of the SF Municipal Railway.

In the coming years, we will continue to the best of our ability to deliver and improve the transit service you depend on.

This issue of the *Muni Times* focuses on the cooperative efforts between Muni, private businesses and the arts. It is this spirit of teamwork between Muni and such enterprises as the Pickle Family Circus, the St. Francis Hotel, Transportation Displays Inc., Gannett Transit Shelter and other businesses and arts groups that makes San Francisco the great city that it is. Without the generous contributions from these organizations, many programs affecting both Muni riders and employees, such as graffiti prevention, awards, the publication of certain passenger information materials, and the annual Senior Christmas Luncheon would remain unrealized.

As 1990 draws to a close, I send a hearty thank you to all Muni's supporters, be they individual passengers or San Francisco businesses. I look forward to continuing to make Muni an organization worthy of your support in 1991.

Sincerely,

Johnny Stein
General Manager

Letter to the Editor

Dear Ms. Milner,

I live on the cable car line and get a transfer each time. When I change to a bus, the driver usually takes the transfer, leaving me to pay again on the bus and the cable car if I return within two hours. Somehow it doesn't seem right that an \$.85 bus transfer is good for three rides while a \$2 one is only good for two. I'm confused. Is this true?

Sincerely,

S.A. Landwehr

Dear S.A. Landwehr,

Thanks for giving us the opportunity to clear up a complicated issue. When you transfer from a cable car to a bus, give the bus driver your cable car ticket (obtained from a Cable Car ticket machine or a cable car conductor when you pay on the car). The bus driver, in turn, should give you a bus transfer with the stub removed. When you transfer to another bus, the next driver should take the transfer. (That's three rides.) If you transfer back to a cable car, however, you will be required to pay an additional dollar when you present your bus transfer.

Sincerely,

Anne Milner
Editor

The Bus Stops Here

An Unlikely Team?

Muni, Performing Arts Services and the City of San Francisco's Grant for the Arts are co-sponsoring a year-long program, which started in October, to promote both public transportation and the arts in San Francisco.

Called, "The Bus Stops Here," the campaign was created by the John Noble Advertising Agency and will use extensive interior and exterior advertising urging passengers to attend the theatre, concerts, museums and arts events and to get there by taking Muni. Gannett Transit Shelters and TDI, Muni's bus advertising company, are posting "The Bus Stops Here" ads in buses and shelters. In the coming months, look for posters of Sukay, Music of the Andes, the War Memorial Opera House, the SF Shakespeare Festival, and Joe Louis Walker of the SF Blues Festival, urging passengers to attend a wide variety of arts events. If you never thought of buses and the arts as being likely partners, think again.

A Blast from the Past

A Bit of Transit History

Muni first started operating "motor-buses" in San Francisco in September 1917. Up to that time, most transit service in San Francisco was provided by streetcar although seven cable cars lines were still running. The first "motor-bus" line, which came to be called the No. 1 Park, traveled from 10th Avenue and Fulton through Golden Gate Park to Ninth Avenue and Judah and then out to 48th Avenue and Kirkham. The first service was with rented buses. Muni bought its own buses in January 1918. These were five 19-seat vehicles purchased from the White Motor Company. Today, 72 years later, Muni operates approximately 528 motor coaches.

Vandalism Plagues Transit Shelters

Glass Shattered Repeatedly

Gannett Transit Shelter Company of San Francisco, which built and maintains 1000 transit shelters at Muni stops throughout San Francisco, reports that shelter vandalism is on the increase.

Lately, glass in more and more of the shelters is being purposely shattered by vandals, and electrical wiring and seats are being destroyed, increasing the risk of injury to Muni passengers. The glass in all the shelters totals 8500 individual pieces, which if laid end to end, would reach from Candlestick Park to San Jose — 70 miles!

Gannett estimates that replacing and cleaning up broken glass costs the company about \$14,000 a month, or at least \$168,000 a year. The shelters are an important asset to Muni. They provide seats for waiting passengers, cover in inclement weather, and lighting at night. And the shelter program is virtually free to the City. Advertising revenues financed the \$8 million construction cost and also pay for maintaining the shelters, as well as for the production of the Muni map and other passenger information materials. Gannett also contributes to the Muni Employee Recognition Program.

If you witness vandals deliberately breaking the transit shelters, please report the incident to the police immediately by calling 553-0123. Please send ideas on how to combat the problem to the *Muni Times* and we will pass them on to Gannett.

More Awards for Muni

Muni Map and Earthquake Performance Cited

Muni's *Street and Transit Map* won First Place in the map subdivision at the national convention of the American Public Transit Association in Houston this Fall.

A First Place Award Certificate, which is on display at Muni Headquarters, recognizes Muni for "Outstanding Achievement in Transit Marketing."

In addition, the Bay Area's Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and *Mass Transit* magazine have handed awards to Muni for exceptional performance after the Loma Prieta earthquake a year ago.

At its 14th Annual Transportation Awards in September, MTC chose Muni to share an Award of Merit for cooperative post earthquake work following the earthquake with BART, Central Contra Costa County Transit, Santa Cruz County Transit, AC Transit, SamTrans, Golden Gate Transit and RIDES for Bay Area Commuters. Muni employee Mario Perez also received a Letter of Appreciation for his role in restoring power to Muni's Flynn Division after the earthquake. Perez arranged for the delivery of various generators and ventilators and then took responsibility for their operation in the building. The efforts of Perez and others in the shop had Flynn Division servicing Muni and other city vehicles by 10 p.m. the night of the quake.

Mass Transit named Muni as First Place Winner in its Awards of Excellence competition for outstanding job performance after the earthquake. Muni was chosen out of 38 finalists for the "group" category from a total of 65 nominations.

Take Muni to the Pickle

Holiday Show Opens in December



Photo: Kay Raddatz

On December 14th, San Francisco's own Pickle Family Circus premieres its new play, "La La Luna Sea," at the Palace of Fine Arts at Bay and Lyon. The 28 19th Avenue, the 30 Stockton, the 43 Masonic and the 45 Union-Stockton will take you there.

"La La Luna Sea," is a clown play about Pino (played by Diane Wasnak), a musician searching for a saxophone stolen by the Moon. Pino's adventures include an encounter with astronauts, a rendezvous with gangsters, and a riotous undersea party. The story unfolds through acrobatic feats, aerial acts, and the clowning and juggling for which the Pickle Family is famous.

The play runs from December 14th through December 31st. Ticket prices range from \$8-\$25, with a 20 percent discount for groups of 15 or more. For performance times and ticket information, call 826-5678.

In a separate note, Diane Wasnak and Joan Mankin, who plays the Pickle's irrepressible "ringmattress," Queenie Moon, have agreed to appear in a pro-bono TV public service announcement for the SF Water Department publicizing the seriousness of the drought. The PSA will be aired sometime after the New Year.

Muni to Get Articulated Trolley Coaches

New Flyer Industries Awarded Contract



Flyer Industries of Canada.

The initial phase of the contract calls for the production of 35 of the 60-foot-long buses. A prototype will come to Muni in April 1992 for a three-month testing period. Following input from Muni staff, modifications will be made and the first of the 35 should be delivered by the end of 1992, with the rest arriving during the first half of 1993.

At a cost of approximately \$612,000 per vehicle, manufacturing of the buses is being funded by the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA). The contract includes an option for the production of 17 additional coaches, also funded by UMTA, and 33 more paid for with local money.

In all, Muni hopes to have an articulated trolley coach fleet of 102 vehicles by the mid-nineties. The larger trolley buses will gradually replace 144 of the 345 standard 40-foot trolley buses currently in operation. The articulated trolleys will probably be used on the 14 Mission, 30 Stockton, 45 Union-Stockton and 1 California lines, although a final decision has not yet been made.

The new buses come equipped with auxiliary power supplied by batteries so that the vehicles can maneuver around line delays caused by emergencies and electrical overhead problems. They will operate smoothly without the jerky stop-and-go motion commonly associated with our standard trolley coaches.

The City Purchasing Department has awarded a contract to manufacture a fleet of articulated trolley coaches to New

Graffiti Prevention Takes to the Stage

New Play in Progress

On Monday, October 29th, "Graffiti Blues," a play written and produced by actor Ron Mokwena, star of the sitcom "A Different World," and Misha McK, who has starred on NBC in "Me and Mrs. C," was presented for a one-time open-forum performance at the Lorraine Hansberry Theatre. The two-act play, a collaborative effort by Ron and Misha's newly formed Save Our Youth Theatre attempts to identify youths' bottled-up feelings, and then proposes creative solutions for positive self-expression through the arts.

AT&T, Chevron USA, McKesson Foundation, San Francisco Beautiful and Muni's Graffiti Prevention Program sponsored the one-time performance. Now, Muni, with the support of the Board of Education, is looking for more funding to stage additional performances throughout the City. The play bills itself as a "forum that allows young people to be seen, heard and respected." For information on how to contribute, please contact Barbara Conway, Muni's Graffiti Prevention Manager at 923-6265.

In a related story, Pacific Telesis has donated \$75,000 to fight graffiti in SF. The money will be used to involve graffiti offenders and their parents in education, counseling and clean-up. Five youth counselors will be hired to work with graffiti vandals and their parents in sessions offered by Community Boards, a conflict-resolution program.

Did you know?

There are 5,300 Muni transit stops! Over 95% of the City's addresses are within two blocks of at least one of them.

Behind the Scenes

Cable car crews, hotels and restaurants spread the Christmas spirit

On Friday, December 14th, cable car crews and staff hosted the Fifth Annual Senior Christmas Luncheon at Old St. Mary's Catholic Church at California and Grant.

The luncheon, which has become a San Francisco tradition, draws at least 300 senior citizens from throughout SF. It is made possible through the generous contributions of local hotels and restaurants, and donations the cable car crews.

This year, the St. Francis Hotel once again donated turkey, stuffing, and gravy. Other contributors included Original Joe's Restaurant with pork roast; the Mark Hopkins Hotel with sheet cake; the Holiday Inn, Union Square, with rolls and vegetables; the Huntington Hotel, Scoma's with ham and vegetables; the Sir Francis Drake Hotel with mashed potatoes and fruit cocktail; the Hyatt Regency, Embarcadero, with fruit punch and cookies; Walgreen's with paper products; and Just Desserts, with cake. The St. Mary's Girls Drum and Bell Corps provided entertainment, and cable car crews will transport and serve the food.

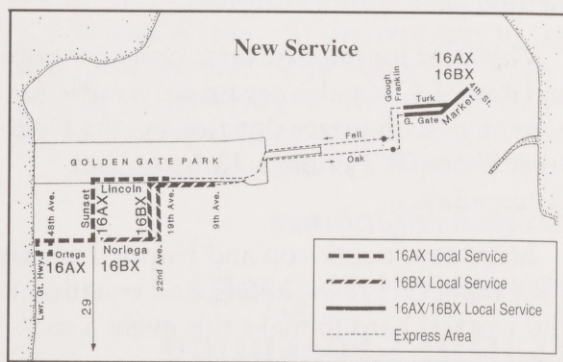
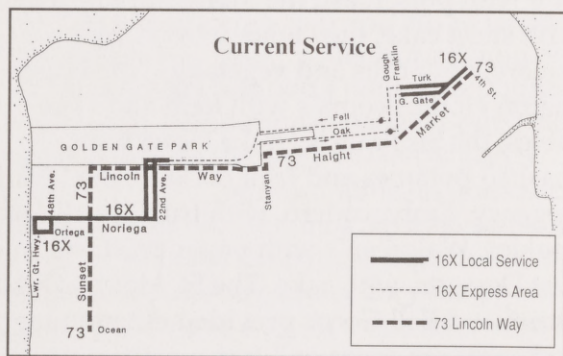
This year for the first time, cable car gripman Ray McCann also organized a raffle for the seniors with prizes donated by the Hyde Street Bistro, TGI Fridays, Kuleto's, and Castagnola's.

Muni says thank you and Happy Holidays to the cable car crews, hotels, and restaurants, who worked hard to make this event a success.

On the Move

Route Changes Scheduled

In January, Muni will replace the 16X Noriega and the 73 Lincoln Way with two new routes: the 16AX Noriega "A" Express and the 16 BX Noriega "B" Express. As approved by the Public Utilities Commission and the Board of Supervisors following favorable neighborhood meetings, the 16AX will follow the existing 16X route from 48th Avenue to Noriega and Sunset and then operate via Sunset and Lincoln to 19th Avenue making all stops. It will then run downtown as an express via the current 16X route. The 16BX will start at Noriega and Sunset and run downtown via the current 16X route, but will make all local stops west of Ninth Avenue.



Muni's New General Manager

continued from front

overseeing Central Control and Passenger Service.

From 1988 until he was named Acting General Manager last spring, he was Chief Transportation Officer and Deputy General Manager, responsible for all the operating functions of the Municipal Railway.

Stein has been instrumental in reducing passenger service complaints, cutting operator absenteeism, keeping Muni's Transportation Division within its targeted budget and implementing computer-based planning and record-keeping. As Muni's Acting General Manager, he exhibited the same professional excellence he exercised in his previous posts, proving that his selection for the permanent position is well deserved.

Stein is a member of the Black Leadership Forum in San Francisco and the national Conference of Minority Transit Professionals. He holds a business degree from Healds College and Certificates in Administration, Supervision and Transit Management from the University of Southern California. He is married and the father of three children.

Credits

The Muni Times is published by the Community Affairs Department of the Municipal Railway for the passengers of Muni. Comments and suggestions may be sent to the Muni Times, Room 238, 949 Presidio Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94115.

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